Replies to letter$_s$ received from M. Ps.

391. SHRl O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRTMB MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the letters written by the M.Ps to the Minister of State for Defence ar$_e$ neither being acknowledged nor replied inspite of repeated reminders;

(b) if so. the reasons therefor and what steps does the Prime Minister propose to 'take to ensure that the replies to the letters of the M. Ps. are not »n!y replied promptly but spiritedly by the Minister of State;

(c) whether letters written to the i Prime Minister and the Minister of ! State for Defence, if at all replied,

are replied by the officials and not by the Minister; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and what concrete steps does the Prime Minister propose to take to ensure that tlie replies are sent under the signatures of the Minister of State only and if not, the rtasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) As per the laid down procedure, letters addressed by Member$_s$ of Parliament are replied to as soon as possible. If the information sought is not readily available, such letters are acknowledged | pending a complete reply, because occasionally the collection of information from lower formations causes a slight delay.

(c) and (d) Although the Ministers nddres3cd norrm.Hv endeavour to reply personally to such letters. the laid doara procedure permits a reply being sent from official levels. While hitherto the leva prescribed was at least that of a Joint Secre'ary, henceforth the level of s»ch reply would be that of Secretary.

Setting up of National Security Coiincil

392. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be (pleased to state:

(a) whelher Government have taken any further steps for setting up ot the National Security Council as assured during the Budget Session in the Rajya Sabha; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (jb) The question of restructuring the National Security Council is under consideration of the Government.

Diversification in defence production

393. SHSIMATT CHANDRIKA AB HINANDAN JATN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the Defence Public Sector Undertakings Sales during 1993-94 were made to non-defence customers:

(b) whether it is a fact that the motivation for diversification in defence production units had not emerged from any down sizing of defence production:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the Tierfornrance of Defence Research and Development Organisation[1] (DRDO) in the last three years in production of defence equipment to meet al] requirements of the army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) During the year 1993-94 about fifty percent of the total sales of defence public sector undertakings were to non-defence customers.

(b) and (c) The defence production units undertake diversification so as to raise turnover and productivity by utilising th$_{;?}$ spareable capacities and skills